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Mahathir-Island

MALAYSIA DOES NOT AGREE TO SIGNING SPECIAL ACCORD IN BRUSSELS

LANGKAWI, Jan 4 (Bernama) -- Malaysia does not agree with Singapore's proposal that the special accord to refer the overlapping claims to Pulau Batu Puteh to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) be signed in Brussels, Belgium, at the end of this month, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The accord should be signed "here", the prime minister said,

"We have agreed to sign the special agreement to take the matter to the ICJ but why should it be done in Brussels. Do it here," he told reporters at the Langkawi International Airport before returning to Kuala Lumpur after a two-day private visit to the island.

Asked why Singapore wanted the special agreement signed in Brussels, Dr Mahathir said: "I don't know. You have to ask them."

Yesterday, Singapore proposed that the special agreement be signed on the sidelines of the Asean-European Union meeting in Brussels on Jan 27 or 28.

The dispute over the tiny rocky outcrop 15 nautical miles off Pengerang, Johor, arose in the 1970s and Malaysia and Singapore agreed in 1991 to refer the matter to the ICJ.

However, the special accord to refer the matter to the ICJ had yet to be signed.

Malaysia had proposed six or seven dates to sign the accord but all were rejected by the republic.

-- BERNAMA

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